

## An Indian Festival

---

India is a land of fairs and festivals. Diwali is a widely celebrated festival in the calendar of Indian festivals. It is the festival of the Hindus. It is called the festival of 'diyas' or 'Deepmala'. It is celebrated in the month of October or November every year. It marks the return of Lord Rama to his Kingdom after an exile of fourteen years. The victory of Rama is a victory of the forces of good over the forces of evil. People light up their houses on the night of Diwali. Earthen lamps known as 'Diyas' burn throughout the night. Candles are lighted and arrayed on the front walls and projected places. People keep electric lights on throughout the night. Cities, towns and villages look like shining comets. The city of Amritsar in Punjab is beautifully decorated. People from different parts of the world come to see the Diwali of Amritsar. Sweets are distributed among friends and relatives on this day. Men and women put on colorful clothes on the day of Diwali. They greet one another and wish each other the blessings of Diwali. Children let off crackers, the noise of which continues till late onto the night. People keep their houses neat and clean. Some orthodox people believe that Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, visits a clean and well-lit house on the night of Diwali. Many people gamble on the night of Diwali. Money changes hands and it brings ruin to certain families. The festival of Diwali leaves a long sweet echo behind.

Essay/ Paragraph / Speech No. 2

### An Indian Festival

An Indian festival is a festive occasion. Children dress up in their best and women make elaborate preparation to celebrate the occasion. Festivals come every now and then. People make best use of these occasions to relax and give themselves a carefree day.

The most important festivals are Dewali, Dussehra, Holi and Raksha Bandhan. Dewali, in fact, is the most important of all festivals. It is celebrated with great pomp and show throughout the country. The houses, shops and streets glitter with multi – coloured lights.

Dewali or Deepawali is celebrated to remember the triumph of Shri Rama over Ravana, the king of Lanka who had taken away Sita, the wife of Shri Rama. It was when Lord Rama returned Ayodhya and was crowned the king that the people celebrated the return of their king with illuminations.

People make preparations for the occasion well in advance. All the houses are cleaned, white washed and painted. Any sign of dirt is considered inauspicious.

Each and every nook and corner of the houses and surroundings are illuminated by different kinds of lights. People keep awake about the whole night bursting crackers and wishing each other a “happy Deewali” People meet each other happily and make all kinds of shopping on and around the day. It is said, the more you spend on that day the more will you get till the next Deewali. It is a day of great earnings for shop- keepers. Sweet- sellers and garment dealers do the highest business.

It is said Maa Laxmi visits every house this night and showers money and blessings everywhere. So the Goddess is worshipped and welcomed by all by bursting crackers and making illuminations everywhere.

There are different customs to celebrate the festival in different parts of the country. the villagers prefer the light, the earthen lamps to illuminate the houses. They light thousands of these lamps to welcome the Goddess of Wealth. It is a day of celebration for the Government offices and officials. Lot of money is spent to illuminate important Government buildings and many official gatherings are organized to celebrate the occasion.

India is strange land with strange habits and customs. The celebration of festivals is one of them. There are lots of small festivals celebrated at some places and areas having some significance to those areas or places. People are much attached to them.